

Preliminary Amendment
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/565,784

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, Claims 1-8 and 11 were allowed and Claim 14 indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Such has been done in the present amendment and Claims 1-8, 11 and 14 are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 9 has been amended herein by the incorporation of the contents of Claim 10 therein. As now amended, Claim 9 is to a junction block that has an inner cover and a power block and connector blocks that are combined with the inner cover. Components, such as circuit boards, are disposed and connected within a space surrounded by the power block and the connector blocks, and the power block and the connector blocks form the outside of the junction block. The combination of the power block and the connector blocks with the inner cover is carried out by engaging a slide-engaging part with a guide part in a direction crossing the inner cover at right angles. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested in the prior art.

In the last Office Action, Claims 9, 10, 12, 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Iwata (U.S., 6,430,054). Claim 10 has been canceled. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection of Claims 9, 12, 13 and 15 as amended are respectfully requested.

Specifically, with respect to Claim 10, which is now incorporated into Claim 9, it is alleged in the Office Action that Iwata shows a combination of power block 13 and connector blocks 11, 12 with an inner cover 4 and a slide-engaging part (or the connector housing) with a guide part 9 in a direction crossing the inner cover at right angles.

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The Office Action appears to mischaracterize the Iwata teaching relative to the assertion as "9" being a guide part. As described in Iwata, at col. 5, lines 9-12, referring to FIG. 1, the elements 9 are a plurality of electrical elements including condensers 9₁, resistors 9₂, 9₃, diodes 9₄, and an integrated circuit 9₅ on an upper surface thereof and a wiring circuit (not shown) on a rear surface thereof. Such electrical components are not comparable to or suggestive of the slide-engaging part with a guide part as specified in amended Claim 9. As amended, Claim 9 now requires a junction block wherein the combination of the power blocks and connector blocks with the inner cover is carried out by engaging a slide-engaging part with a guide part in a direction crossing the inner cover at right angles.

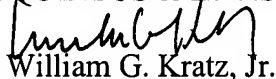
In view of the present amendments to the claims, Claims 9, 12, 13 and 15, as amended, are believed to be patentable in addition to allowable Claims 1-8, 11 and 14 and early action towards allowance of Claims 1-9 and 11-15 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
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